

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A method, comprising:  
directing a client's request for an information object to an information object repository  
without regard as to whether the information object is actually stored at the  
information object repository; and  
determining, according to information included in a uniform resource locator (URL)  
whether the client is authorized to receive the information object.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the information object repository is selected  
according to specified performance metrics.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the specified performance metrics comprise  
one or more of: average delay from the information object repository to the client, average  
processing delays at the information object repository, reliability of a path from the information  
object repository to the client, available bandwidth in said path, and loads on the information  
object repository.
4. (Original) The method of claims 2 further comprising instructing the information object  
repository to obtain a copy of the information object.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the information included in the URL  
comprises information identifying the requesting client.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the information included in the URL further comprises information identifying an owner of the information object.
7. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the information included in the URL comprises one or more digital signatures.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the one or more digital signatures identify one or more of: the requesting client, and an owner of the information object.
9. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the information included in the URL is compared with an access list at the information object repository to determine whether the client is authorized to receive the information object.
10. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising denying access to the information object if the client is not authorized to receive the information object, otherwise, returning the information object to the client.
11. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the information included in the URL comprises multiple digital signatures and each digital signature is compared with an access list at the information object repository to determine whether the client is authorized to receive the information object.
12. Claims 12 – 21 (Cancelled)